

SACRAMENTO REPORT

# Legislature Faces Many Problems Over Gun Laws

By CHARLES E. CHAPEL  
Assemblyman, 46th District

Many men and women living in the 46th Assembly District have written many letters to me regarding firearm legislation. I have answered them as fast as possible, but it is important for the public to have a clear understanding of the problems the California State Legislature will face when it convenes in Sacramento in January, 1965.

First, there are those people who thoroughly understand how to shoot, disassemble, reassemble, maintain and repair all types of firearms, including rifles, carbines, muskets, shotguns, pistols, and revolvers, but do not have the slightest conception of laws whether laws are federal laws, state laws, county ordinances, or city ordinances.

Second, there are eminent attorneys - at law who have never defended or prosecuted a case in court involving firearms. Such outstanding lawyers, of whom there are hundreds to my knowledge, have

a thorough understanding of admiralty law, corporation law, probate law, divorce law, maintenance, champerty, and other fields of legal knowledge, but have never seen a shot fired in either anger or pleasure. They have given me their generous advice to the effect that "there ought to be some tough new laws on guns." Unfortunately, they have failed to tell me whether the laws they want should be tough on the criminals, tough on law-enforcement officers, or tough on those who defend themselves against criminals.

THIRD, THERE are people who understand firearms thoroughly and have some knowledge of law, but fail to be precise in asking questions or making recommendations. For example, I agree that the Congress of the United States must enact federal laws to make it more difficult for communists, socialists, fascists, ex-convicts, lunatics and imbeciles to live in one state and obtain firearms through the mail, by express, or by freight, from a person or a corporation in another state.

There are federal laws on this broad field already, but it is difficult for the federal government to completely solve this problem, regardless of how many good laws the Congress enacts with the help of the President, who must sign into law the Acts of Congress. Furthermore, how can anyone control a federal judge who is appointed by the President of the United States to serve for life as a federal judge? This is not a rhetorical question or an attempt to evade the issue. It is simply a statement of the facts of firearm legislation.

When firearms are moved across state lines, the federal government pre-empts the field of legislation. In other words, California state laws cannot take precedent over federal laws regarding firearms, certainly in this day and age when the federal government tries to run everything from the cradle to the grave from Washington, D.C.

CITIES HAVE the right to more home rule, but here again is a problem involving

firearms. For example, when I bought a pistol in San Francisco, I had to fill out a form in the shop of the gun dealer, sign the form, and wait several days until the San Francisco law-enforcement authorities notified the gun dealer that I could obtain the pistol. Meanwhile, the dealer had my money, waiting for the clearance. I got the pistol and I have no objection to that San Francisco ordinance, but by going to a gun dealer in another city in northern California I could have bought the same make, model, and type of pistol, in the same condition, at the same price, but without signing any form or waiting for a clearance by law-enforcement authorities: If I could have obtained that pistol without any clearance by police officials or other officers of the law, an ex-convict, a lunatic, or an imbecile could have done the same thing.

This demonstrates why very good city ordinances regarding firearms can slow up the purchase of a weapon by an honest citizen and yet make it possible for undesirable persons to get deadly weapons without trouble from some city nearby without restrictive gun ordinances.

CALIFORNIA should not, as a State, attempt to do what is already being done by another level of government, well. This should be obvious to anyone. It should be clear to those who have knowledge of firearms and no knowledge of law. I hope there is no misunderstanding on this point. If there is, please write to me at Post Office Box 327, Redondo Beach, Calif., and tell me exactly what words you want written into or taken out of the California Statutes, and why.

Meanwhile, please write to National Rifle Association of America, Inc., 1600 Rhode Island Ave., N. W., Washington, D. C., for their pamphlet titled "The Gun Law Problem." It will be sent free to members of NRA. Those who are not members should send 10 cents in stamps and a stamped, legal-size, envelope, addressed to themselves, to the above address.



DOROTHY DIGS in the garden

Pansies are one of the most colorful plants that you can get at your nurserymen for almost instant color. There are, however, a few precautions that should be taken.

Most important, pick out good field grown plants with a healthy green color and large blooms.

Prepare the bed by deep spading and mixing steer manure or other fertilizer (Bone Meal is very good) with soil. If you have time, spray the ground thoroughly with a copper solution to eliminate the wire worms and other underground pests that kill many Pansy plants each year.

If you have already planted your pansies and you find one or two dying from "Pansy Wilt" water them thoroughly and a few hours later disinfest the soil with a copper ether spray that will kill those underground bugs that are eating the roots.

If no fertilizer was used at planting time, an all fish fertilizer applied once or twice a month

## The Casualty Count by Jerry Marcus



Most vehicles involved in accidents are in good mechanical condition.

## ... Rescue Efforts Fail

(Continued from Page 1) Popovich said. "We couldn't hold him any more. We just couldn't hold him."

They were unable to pump the water out until officials from Dominguez Water Corp. arrived and shut off the water main.

Firemen were confronted with tons of water when they first arrived on the scene.

Both bodies were taken to Halverson-Leavell Mortuary.

Gastelum is survived by his wife, Adela, and one child. Alvarado is survived by his wife, Josephina, and five children.



NEW POST . . . Bill Graham has been appointed regional loan manager at the American Savings and Loan branch at 205 S. Pacific. Graham worked as a loan officer in the associations Beverly Hills agency the past two years.

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